



BLUE BEETLE

12¢

MARCH



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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BLUE BEETLE

FROM ANCIENT EGYPT IT CAME
TO ENSLAVE THE WORLD... **THE**
EYE OF HORUS



OVER A YEAR AGO, DR. DAN GARRETT...ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ARCHEOLOGISTS AND PROFESSOR AT A LARGE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY...DISCOVERED IN THE NEAR EAST AN ANCIENT SCARAB WHICH POSSESSES THE POWER TO TRANSFORM HIM INTO THE BLUE BEETLE, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CRUSADER OF JUSTICE! NOW, DAN GARRETT WAS CALLED BACK TO THE LAND OF THE NILE TO SAVE A NATION...AND A PLANET...FROM THE FRIGHTENING MENACE MAN CALLED

THE EYE OF HORUS

AT LAST, WEARER OF THE SACRED SCARAB, WE MEET AGAIN...AFTER 6,000 YEARS! NOW IT WILL BE DECIDED WHICH OF US IS STRONGER...YOU OR ME!

IF I DON'T STOP THE EYE OF HORUS...THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE ENSLAVED!



A-5119

SCRIPT BY ROY THOMAS
ART BY FRANKO
AND TALLARICO

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IT ALL BEGAN AT THE NEAR EAST-ERN DIG OF PROFESSOR LURI HO-SHID, LOVELY FRIEND OF DAN GAR-RETT... AND THE BLUE BEETLE...

WE'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR SOME TIME NOW AND HAVEN'T UNCOVERED THE MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN TEMPLE OF RE-HARAKHT INDICATED ON THIS ANCIENT STELE! PERHAPS, HASHIM, IT'S ONLY A MYTH AFTER ALL...



THEN...

PROFESSOR LURI!
AN ENTRANCE....!

IT MUST BE WHAT
WE'VE BEEN LOOK-
ING FOR! LET ME
SEE....!



YES, JUST AS THE STELE DESCRIBED IT! A LONG, NARROW PASSAGEWAY 'WHERE MAN CANNOT PASS'; NO WONDER... IT'S MUCH TOO SMALL FOR A MAN! I CAN MAKE IT, THOUGH! HAND ME THAT TORCH, ALI!

YES, PROFESSOR LURI!



SLOWLY, INCH BY CAUTIOUS INCH, LURI HOSHID MADE HER WAY THROUGH THE PASSAGE! THEN, SUDDENLY...

WH...? MUST HAVE BRUSH-ED SOME HIDDEN LEVER... PART OF THE FLOOR'S SLIDING OUT FROM UNDER ME! OOOOH....!



MOMENTS LATER, SLIGHTLY BRUISED BUT STILL INTACT, THE LOVELY EGYPTO-LOGIST MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY...

I-I'M FORTUNATE I WASN'T KILLED! BUT, IN FALLING, I SEEM TO HAVE DISCOVERED THE TOMB OF RE-HARAKHT! THAT GLEAMING EYE WHICH DOMINATES THIS CHAMBER...



...IT'S THE EYE OF HORUS, A GIANT VERSION OF ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT OF SACRED SYMBOLS/ BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE SO HUGE/ WHAT A FIND FOR THE MUSEUM!



ABRUPTLY, PROFESSOR HOSHID'S REVERIE WAS INTERRUPTED, AS...



LOOKING UPWARD, LURI SAW THE GLEAMING FACE OF HASHIM, YOUNGEST MEMBER OF HER EXPEDITION...

I'M SORRY TO STARTLE YOU, PROFESSOR LURI/ SINCE I AM SMALL, THEY SENT ME IN WITH ROPE WHEN YOU CRIED OUT!

THANK YOU, HASHIM/ YOU MAKE A LUCKY MASCOT IN-DEED/ TELL THEM TO PULL AWAY... I'M COMING!



LATER, THE FEMALE ARCHEOLOGIST REPORTED HER AMAZING DISCOVERY TO THE HEAD OF THE MUSEUM, PROFESSOR W. ELMO PHILLIPS...

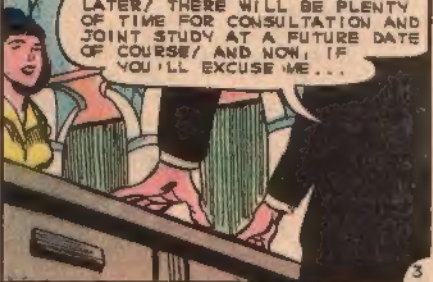
SO, PROFESSOR HOSHID... YOU ADD YET ANOTHER TRIUMPH TO YOUR ALREADY LONG LIST OF IMPRESSIVE FINDS/ YOU ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR PHILLIPS/ BUT, REMEMBER, IT WAS YOU WHO, MONTHS AGO, FOUND THE SCROLL WHICH TOLD OF THE HIDDEN UNDERGROUND TEMPLE...



...AND, WHEN ITS CONTENTS HAVE ALL BEEN BROUGHT TO THE MUSEUM, MAY I SUGGEST WE CONSULT AN AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGIST... DR. DAN GARRETT OF SECOND CITY UNIVERSITY... AN ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERT IN THE FIELD!

EHP? OH... YES, YES/ BUT LATER/ THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR CONSULTATION AND JOINT STUDY AT A FUTURE DATE OF COURSE/ AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...



AS HIS TWO VISITORS DEPARTED, AN
 OMINOUS CHANGE CAME OVER THE
 FEATURES OF THE PROFESSOR...

PROFESSOR HOSHDID TOLD ME HER MEN
 WERE HARD AT WORK ENLARGING THE
 PASSAGEWAY WHICH LEADS TO THE
 TEMPLE/ IF THEY HAVE FINISHED
 THAT TASK BY TONIGHT, I SHALL
 DESCEND INTO THE CHAMBER OF RE-
 HARAKHT MYSELF...AND THEN LET
 THE WORLD DEBATE!



UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE PRO-
 FESSOR'S JEEP RACED TOWARD THE
 SITE OF HIS COLLEAGUE'S DIG...

AN, NOW CLEVER IT WAS OF ME TO
 INSIST THAT PROFESSOR HOSHDID RE-
 MAIN IN THE CITY TONIGHT SO THAT
 WE COULD COME OUT TOGETHER TO-
 MORROW/ NOW IF ONLY MY LUCK WILL
 HOLD...

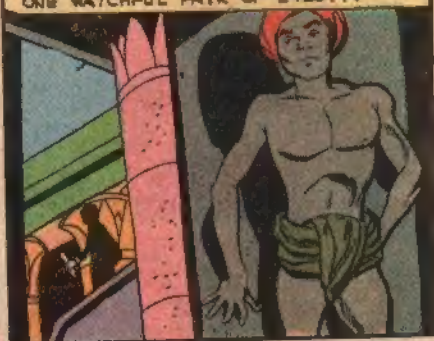


SO IT WAS THAT, MINUTES LATER,
 PROFESSOR PHILIPPS STOOD BEFORE
 THE AWE-INSPIRING EYE OF HORUS...

STRANGE PEOPLE, THE ANCIENT
 EGYPTIANS/ THEIR GOD RE-HARAKHT
 WAS A COMBINATION OF TWO OTHER
 GODS... RA, THE SUN-GOD, AND HORUS
 THE HAWK-HEADED SPIRITUAL COUNTER-
 PART OF THE PHARAOH/ SO THIS EYE
 OF HORUS IS OFTEN REFERRED TO IN
 THE ANCIENT WRITINGS AS THE EYE
 OF RA AS WELL!



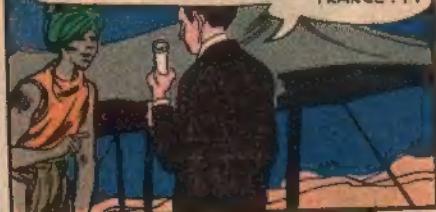
THAT EVENING, PHILIPPS PRETENDED
 TO WORK LATE AT THE MUSEUM/ HOW-
 EVER, SOON AFTER DUSK, HE DEPARTED
 STEALTHILY...UNSEEN BY ALL BUT
 ONE WATCHFUL PAIR OF EYES...



AND, AS THE FATES WOULD HAVE IT...

YES, PROFESSOR, WE HAVE SUFFI-
 CIENTLY ENLARGED THE PASSAGEWAY
 SO THAT YOU MAY ENTER/ BUT WOULD
 IT NOT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL
 PROFESSOR LURI! RETURNS AT DAY-
 LIGHT...?

NO NEED FOR THAT, A! I
 A TORCH WILL GIVE ME ALL THE
 LIGHT I SHALL NEED/ NOW, IF YOU
 WILL KINDLY SHOW ME TO THE EN-
 TRANCE...



ACCORDING TO THE OLD LEGENDS,
 THIS MIGHTY EYE WAS HARD EVEN FOR
 THE GODS TO CONTROL, AND ONCE IT
 RAVAGED THE COUNTRYSIDE UNTIL A
 TRICK PUT IT TO SLEEP...



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

**THE GREATEST ACTION-HEROES OF
ALL TIME -- ON SALE NOW!**

CAPTAIN ATOM

12¢

WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE INCOMPARABLE
DOCTOR SPECTRO MASTER OF MOODS!
DIFFERENT • DANGEROUS • DIABOLICAL

SON OF VULCAN

SARGE STEEL

SPECIAL AGENT

THE FIGHTIN' 5

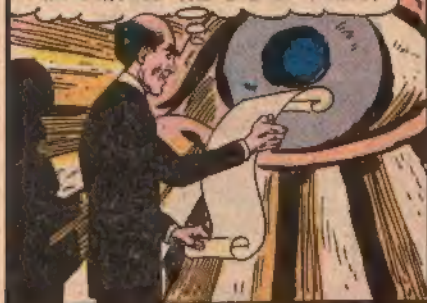
FIGHT

PETER CANNON'S THUNDERBOLT

12¢

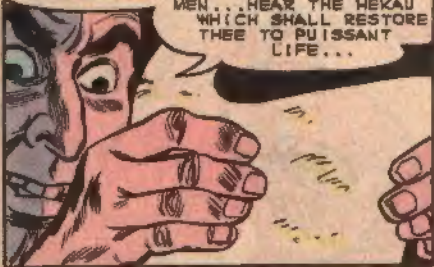
YES...
YOU GUESSED IT...
THE BRONZE GOD
IS BACK!

BUT NO MATTER/ FOR I POSSESS A SECOND SCROLL, WHICH I DID NOT MAKE KNOWN TO PROFESSOR HOSHID. AND THIS SECOND SCROLL CONTAINS THE HEKAU, OR WORDS OF POWER, WHICH WILL ENABLE ME TO AWAKEN AND CONTROL THE EYE OF HORUS!



SLOWLY, OMINOUSLY, IN SEPULCHRAL TONES THE POWER-MAD ARCHEOLOGIST BEGAN TO READ ALOUD FROM THE LONG-LOST SCROLL...

O SACRED EYE OF HORUS WHICH LOOKETH DOWN FROM HEAVEN FROM THE BOAT OF RA THE SUN... O MOST MIGHTY EYE, WHICH OF OLD DID SCOURGE THE WORKS OF GODS AND MEN... HEAR THE HEKAU WHICH SHALL RESTORE THEE TO PUSSANT LIFE...



HOWEVER, UNKNOWN TO PHILIPPS, TWO SILENT FIGURES WATCHED IN THE SHADOWS ABOVE...

IT IS GOOD THAT I WATCHED THE PROFESSOR AND WOKE YOU WHEN HE CAME TO THESE RUINS, YES?

YES, HASHIM/ HE ACTED TOO EAGER TO GET RID OF US THIS AFTERNOON/ BUT IF THAT SPELL WORKS, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM UNLESS...



...WAIT/ THIS SMALL BLUE SCARAB NECKLACE GIVEN TO ME BY DAN GARRETT WHEN WE MET BEFORE/ HE SAID HE COULD USE IT TO SUMMON HIM IF EVER NEEDED HIM!

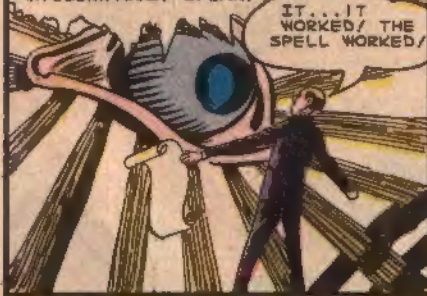


LURI HOSHID IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS THAT DR. DAN GARRETT IS THE INVINCIBLE BLUE SEETLE!

BUT EVEN AS THE URGENT TELEPATHIC SUMMONS STREAKED AROUND THE EARTH, THE HEKAU SPOKEN BY PROFESSOR PHILIPPS HAD THEIR EFFECT!

WHO IS IT THAT AWAKENS THE EYE OF HORUS FROM HIS SLEEP OF MANY MILLENNIUMS? SPEAK!

IT... IT WORKED/ THE SPELL WORKED!



NOW TO READ THE WORDS WHICH WILL PLACE THE EYE UNDER MY COMMAND/ O EYE, BY THE POWER OF KHEPERA WHO IS THE LORD OF CREATION, BY THE...

DO YOU EXPECT THE EYE OF HORUS TO DO THE BIDDING OF ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF? PREPARE TO MEET THY DOOM!



THE NEXT INSTANT...

NO MAN ALIVE KNOWS HOW TO COMMAND THE POWER OF THE EYE OF HORUS/ IT IS TIME THAT I ONCE AGAIN LAY WASTE TO THE EARTH AT MY PLEASURE/ BUT FIRST...



OH... THAT BEAM/ IT... IT'S DESTROYING PROFESSOR PHILIPPS/

UHHH...

MEANWHILE, HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, IT WAS DAYLIGHT... AND DR. GARRETT WAS CONDUCTING ONE OF HIS CLASSES AT SECOND CITY UNIVERSITY/

...AND FURTHER, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT CHARMS TO PROTECT THE DECEASED WERE WRITTEN EVEN INSIDE THE LID OF THE COFFIN/

WHERE, DR. GARRETT? I CAN'T SEE THEM... I...



BUT, ALAS, A LITTLE DESIRE FOR LEARNING IS SOMETIMES A DANGEROUS THING, AND...

YONCH/

OH, I'M SO SORRY, DR. GARRETT/ I ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED THE COFFIN LID SHUT ON YOUR FINGERS/ I DIDN'T MEAN TO...



UHH... THAT SMARTS/ IT'S A SHAME I CAN'T STAY BLUE BEETLE ALL THE DAY FOR PROTECTION FROM MY OVER-SAGER STUDENTS/

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MIMI/ I'M ALL RIGHT/ CLASS DISMISSED... I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW/

YES SIR... BUT I REALLY WISH YOU'D LET ME HELP/ I WAS IN JUNIOR RED CROSS IN HIGH SCHOOL...



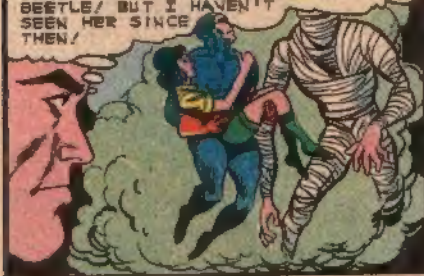
THE STUDENTS HAVE DEPARTED. DR. GARRETT ATTEMPTED TO SOOTHE HIS ACHING FINGERS...

JUNIOR RED CROSS INDEED/ AND TO THINK MY DEAR OLD MOTHER ALWAYS WANTED ME TO BE A SAFE, SANE TRUCK-DRIVER/ STILL, MIMI KALER MAY ONE DAY BE AS GREAT AN ARCHEOLOGIST AS LURI HOSHID/



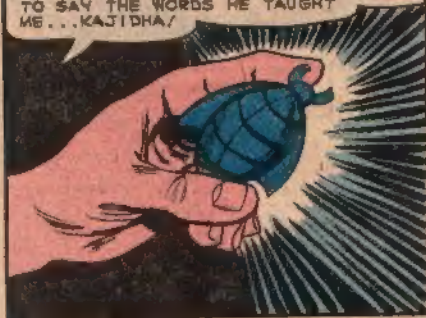
AT THE THOUGHT OF LURI HOSHD, DAN GARRETT'S THOUGHTS RACED BACK TO THAT STRANGE ADVENTURE WHERE- IN THEY HAD FIRST MET...

IF NOT FOR LURI... PROFESSOR HO- SHID, I WOULD NEVER HAVE ENCOUN- TERED THE GIANT LIVING MUMMY OF KHA-EF-RE, OR BECOME THE BLUE BEETLE! BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEN!



HIS 'WOUNDS' FORGOTTEN, THE YOUNG ARCHEOLOGIST REACHED INTO HIS COAT POCKET AND BROUGHT OUT...

...THE SACRED SCARAB ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE ANCIENT PHAROAH! NOW TO SAY THE WORDS HE TAUGHT ME... KAJIDHA!



THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, AS IF IN ANSWER TO HIS UNSPOKEN WISH...

WH...? A MENTAL SUMMONS... LURI! MUST BE IN DANGER! PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION BUSINESS AFTER ALL!

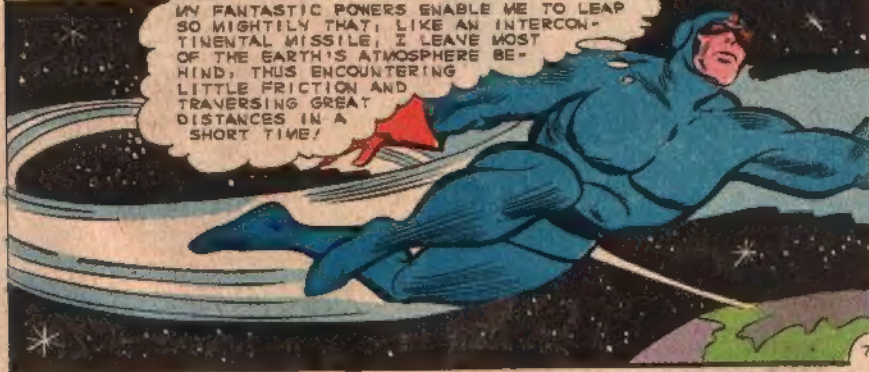


NOW TO ZOOM OUT OF HERE... AT SUCH SPEED THAT NO HUMAN EYES WILL BE ABLE TO DETECT ME AND KNOW THAT DR. GARRETT AND THE BLUE BEETLE ARE ONE AND THE SAME!



A MOMENT LATER, THE PROTEGE OF THE ANCIENTS FLASHED ACROSS THE SKY TOWARD THE NEAR EAST...

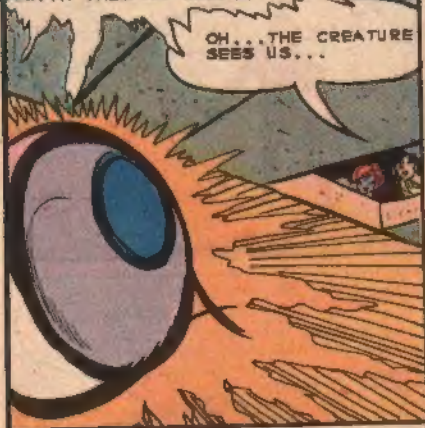
MY FANTASTIC POWERS ENABLE ME TO LEAP SO MIGHTILY THAT, LIKE AN INTERCON- TINENTAL MISSILE, I LEAVE MOST OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE BE- HIND, THUS ENCOUNTERING BE- LITTLE FRICTION AND TRAVERSING GREAT DISTANCES IN A SHORT TIME!



MEANWHILE, HAVING DISPOSED OF THE AMBITIOUS PROFESSOR PHILIPPS, THE EYE OF HORUS SENSED THE PRESENCE OF LURI HOSHID AND HASHIM!

YET MORE IMPOTENT HUMANS OBSERVE ME/ I SHALL DEAL WITH THEM AS WELL...

OH...THE CREATURE SEES US...



A SECOND BURST OF ENERGY, RIPPING THROUGH THE CEILING OF THE HIDDEN CHAMBER AND...

OHNN...

AIEE..!

HA, HA/ THESE INSIGNIFICANT MORTALS ARE NO STRONGER THAN THE ONES I TERRORIZED 6,000 YEARS AGO/ THEY SHALL MAKE FINE SPORT FOR THE EYE OF HORUS!



BUT, SUDDENLY, AS THE EYE BLASTED OUT AT ITS VICTIMS, ANOTHER FORM ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANCIENT WORLD BURST INTO VIEW...

BLUE BEETLE!

SO, PROFESSOR HOSHID/ WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO NOW? A GIANT EYE...!!

WH...? A BEARER OF THE SACRED BLUE SCARAB/ AFTER ALL THESE MANY YEARS...!



BUT THIS TIME VICTORY WILL BE MINE/ MY NEXT ENERGY-BOLTS WILL BE MORE POWERFUL, AND...UHMM/

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY 'THIS TIME,' CHUM... BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TRAIN YOUR OVERGROWN ORB ON ME, YOU'RE SADLY MIS-TAKEN!



HOWEVER, THE EYE OF HORUS WAS NOT WITHOUT DEVICES OF ITS OWN...

THIS FIRST ENCOUNTER BELONGS TO YOU, POSSESSOR OF THE SCARAB/ I WAS NOT PREPARED TO FACE SUCH A MIGHTY FOE AGAIN SO SOON/ BUT I SHALL RETURN ERE LONG, AND THEN THE TALE SHALL END DIFFERENTLY!

THAT LIGHT!

THE EYE IS VANISHING.../ CAN'T SEE!



END OF PART I

THE SEVEN CITIES OF CIBOLA

More than four centuries ago, the Spaniards on this continent sent out an expedition to look for the Seven Cities of Cibola. A mysterious man by the name of Cabeza de Vaca had told that he had heard about these cities where there was gold for everyone and also precious stones. They didn't find those cities and the legend is alive today. For deep in many a heart is the desire to find that enchanted place where riches are for the asking. But, those Seven Cities of Cibola are real. I didn't find that place-it found me!

We often do things because somewhere deep down inside of us is some kind of an unknown urge. It sends men out to climb the highest mountain or to brave the perils of the jungle. In my case I just felt the urge to cross the desert in my small sport car. I had filled up my tank and taken an extra supply of water.

You'd be safer if you used the regular highway," suggested the owner of the gas place. "However, you will see markers in the desert. Follow them and you won't get lost. You seem determined to take that old route. When you get to the other side, do me a favor. Call me up and let me know you arrived safely."

He jotted down his phone number for me and I promised I would call. I don't know why that old man worried about me, but he did and that was important. Because as you will see, it saved my life. I must have been half-way across the desert route when my motor conked out. I hadn't seen a car go in either direction. I worked for an hour trying to spot what was wrong. Then that old man on a horse leading a mule came up to me. He just wore a white coat and nothing more.

"You can't stay here in the desert. Come with me."

He pointed to the north and then I saw that walled city. I obeyed him and mounted the animal. After a short ride we stopped before the gate to the city. He pointed his finger and the gate opened. How shall I describe what I saw? It seemed as though every building was ornamented with gold and precious stones. We stopped before what definitely must have been the palace of the ruler. We entered it but I saw nobody.

"Where are the people?" I asked.

"They died many centuries ago," he explained. "I am the guardian of the Seven Cities of Cibola. All joined together and protected by one large wall."

At this point I wasn't certain whether or not I was awake, dreaming, or perhaps a bit delirious from the effects of the midday sun. He opened a box full of diamonds.

"Help yourself," he said to me. "Take whatever you want. But only enough to fill the small bag."

He turned around and I noticed two bags. One small and the other very large. And I also saw a sharp knife. I filled only the small bag with diamonds. Then he turned to me.

"You could have killed me with the knife and filled the large bag. Why didn't you? All the rest did it. Why should you be any different?"

"Why should I repay kindness with treachery?" I snapped back at him.

For that you may live and keep the diamonds. I am certain you will put them all to good use. For some unknown reason you differ from other human beings. You have neither greed nor evil in your heart.

When I opened my eyes I was in bed in a hospital room. The doctor smiled at me.

"Good thing the old man at the gas station called up the police when you didn't call back. The safety patrol found you. Another hour or so and the desert heat would have finished you off in your unconscious condition. The Chief of Police wants to ask you some questions."

So he came in and handed me a small bag. I opened it and saw the diamonds.

"One of the experts in town figured they must be worth at least three million dollars. Your property. What're you going to do with them? Lucky my men were honest."

"Going to build a new gas station for the man who saved my life. Then an addition for the orphanage in which I was raised. And a large donation to your Police Widow's Fund. Anything else?"

"I was going to ask where you got them, but we checked you out and found you to be O.K. And say, with those ideas, you are O.K."

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PART 2 SLAVES OF THE ANCIENT EYE

FOR THE MOMENT, THE EYE OF HORUS WAS GONE! SEEMINGLY VANQUISHED BY A MIGHTY BLOW FROM THE BLUE BEETLE! BUT, EVEN AS THE LAST VESTIGES OF THE EYE FADED FROM SIGHT, ALL THREE OF THE MORTALS PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER OF RE-HARAKHTY REALIZED THAT THIS BRIEF BATTLE HAD BUT SIGNALLED THE BEGINNING OF A WAR... A WAR WHICH WOULD END ONLY WITH THE ULTIMATE DEFEAT OF ONE OF THE COMBATANTS!

IT'S GONE! BUT I'M SURE IT "SPOKE" THE TRUTH WHEN IT SAID IT WOULD RETURN! BUT... WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE WAS IT?



FEVER SHLY, PROFESSOR HOSHID EXPLAINED TO THE AMERICAN...

AND THEN, DA...ER, BLUE BEETLE... THE EYE OF HORUS DESTROYED PROFESSOR PHILIPPS AND TURNED UPON HASHIM AND ME!

I SEE...



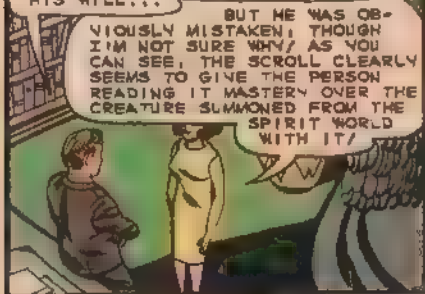
...BUT WHAT DID THE EYE MEAN WHEN IT REFERRED TO FACING ME 'AGAIN'? AND IT SEEMED TO SENSE AT ONCE THE POWER OF THE SACRED SCARAB! THESE ARE MYSTERIES I MUST ANSWER IF I'M TO DO BATTLE WITH THIS EVIL CREATURE IN THE FUTURE!



THE NEXT MORNING, DAN CONFERRED WITH LURI HOSHID...

SO PROFESSOR PHILLIPS THOUGHT THAT THIS SECOND SCROLL CONTAINED A SPELL POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SUBJECT THE EYE OF HORUS TO HIS WILL...

BUT HE WAS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN, THOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHY/ AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SCROLL CLEARLY SEEMS TO GIVE THE PERSON READING IT MASTERY OVER THE CREATURE SUMMONED FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD WITH IT!



AND SO, THAT NIGHT...

SORRY YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO COME IN WITH US, HASHIM... BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'D ENJOY THE NIGHT-CLUB SCENE!

IT'S OKAY, DR. DAN/ I GUARD THE MUSEUM JEEP... THAT'S MORE FUN ANYWAY!



I'M TEMPTED, LURI, I REALLY AM... BUT AMERICA IS MY HOME/ AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'VE SWORN TO FIGHT ALL EVIL AS THE BLUE BEETLE...

...AND SO YOU'RE NOT FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT... I KNOW/ OH, DAN, MUST THE ENTIRE EARTH BE THREATENED EACH TIME IN ORDER FOR ME TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE YOU?



WELL, WHILE WE PONDER THE MYSTERY... AND WAIT FOR THE EYE TO ATTACK AGAIN... MAY I SUGGEST AN EVENING ON THE TOWN, PROFESSOR HOSHID?

FOR POSITIVELY THE LAST TIME, DAN GARRETT... IF YOU DON'T CALL ME LURI, EVEN YOUR BLUE BEETLE POWERS WON'T PROTECT YOU WHEN I LOSE MY WOMANLY TEMPER!

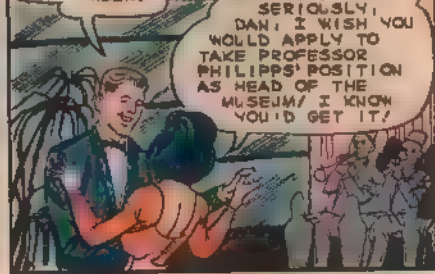


AS THE EVENING WORE ON, DAN SLOWLY BEGAN TO REALIZE HOW MUCH HE HAD MISSED HIS LOVELY COLLEAGUE!

LURI, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT IT/ YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST ARCHEOLOGIST I'VE SEEN ALL WEEK!

YOU TURN MY HEAD WITH SUCH FLATTERY, SIR/ BUT SERIOUSLY,

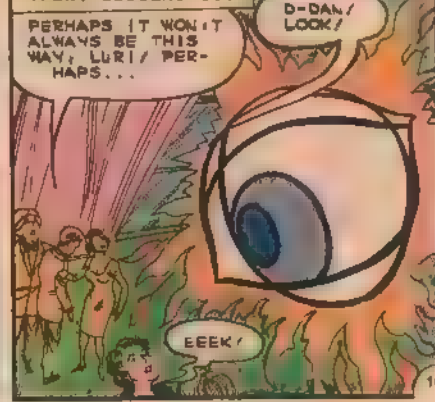
DAN, I WISH YOU WOULD APPLY TO TAKE PROFESSOR PHILLIPS' POSITION AS HEAD OF THE MUSEUM/ I KNOW YOU'D GET IT!



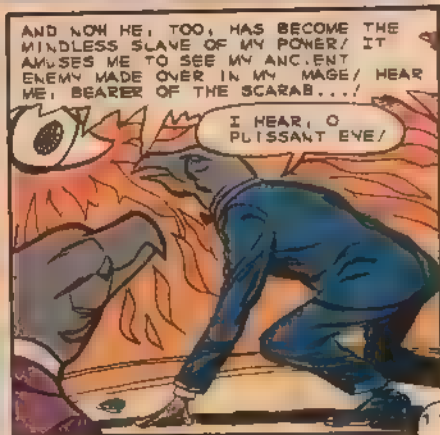
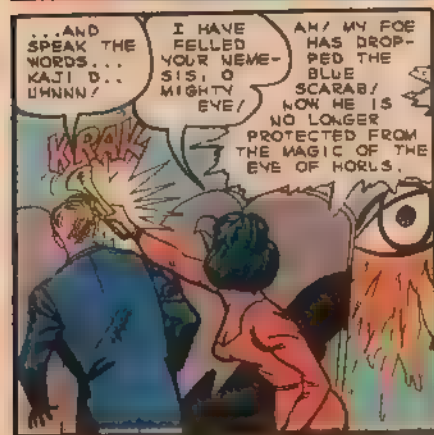
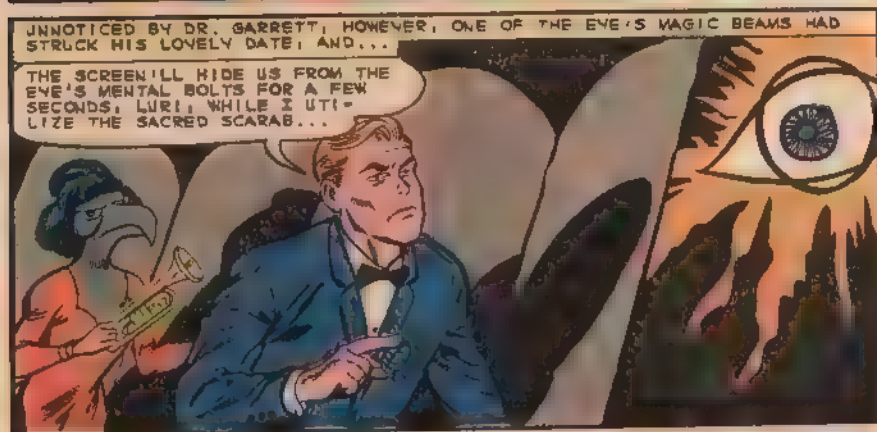
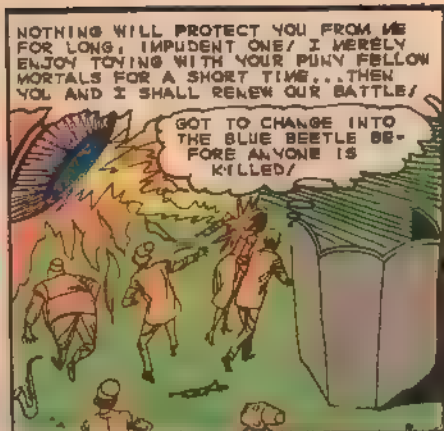
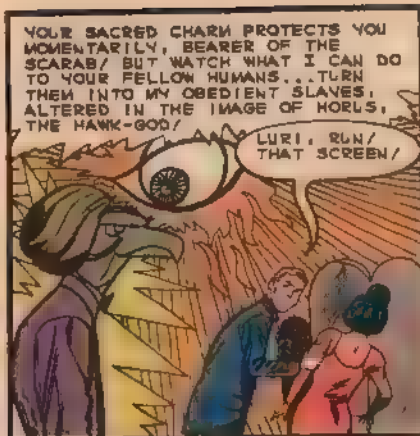
THEN, SUDDENLY...

PERHAPS IT WON'T ALWAYS BE THIS WAY, LURI/ PERHAPS...

D-DAN/ LOOK!



EEEEK!



ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE ABOVE THIS CITY IS A HUGE NEW DAM! IN A FEW MOMENTS I SHALL DESTROY IT... WITH IT THE ENTIRE CITY! AND YOU WILL DO NOTHING TO PREVENT IT!

I... WILL DO... NOTHING... TO PREVENT IT!

AS THE EYE OF HORUS VANISHED FROM SIGHT, YOUNG HASHIM RUSHED INTO THE ROOM FILLED WITH UNMOVING, HAWK-HEADED FORMS...

DR. DAN! PROFESSOR LURI! THE EYE.. IT IS GOING TO KILL US ALL! YOU MUST DO SOMETHING...!

HOWEVER, THEIR MEMORIES IMPRISONED BY THE MAGIC OF THE ANCIENT CREATURE'S SPELL, HASHIM WAS ANSWERED ONLY WITH SILENCE!

THE SCARAB...! IT CALLED YOU THE "BEARER OF THE SCARAB"! PERHAPS IT HAS SOME KIND OF POWER TO STOP THE EYE! BUT WHAT?

SUDDENLY, AS THE EARTH BEGAN TO TREMBLE...

AIEEE! IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO DESTROY THE DAM! DR. DAN... TAKE THE SCARAB! YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT!

I WILL DO NOTHING!

SUDDENLY, THE BRIGHT YOUNGSTER HAD AN INSPIRATION...

WAIT! THE EYE TOLD YOU ONLY NOT TO TRY TO STOP IT! I DO NOT ASK THAT... ONLY THAT YOU READ THE INSCRIPTION ON THE SCARAB!

I... I...

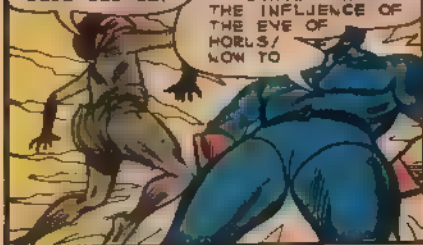
THE INSCRIPTION MUST BE WHAT THE EYE FEARS ABOUT THE SCARAB! IT MUST BE! READ! READ THE WORDS! I SPEAK FOR THE EYE OF HORUS! READ THE WORDS!

FOR THE EYE OF HORUS? I... I WILL READ... KAJI BHA!

AS THE ENCHANTED DAN GARRETT JUTTERED THE WORDS OF POWER, EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY MEANT, HE EXCHANGED HIS MORTAL BODY FOR THAT OF HIS AMAZING ALTER EGO....

AIEE/ IT IS THE AMERICAN THEY CALL...THE BLUE BEETLE/

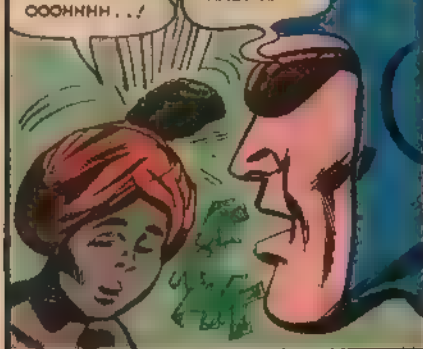
NONE OTHER, HASHIM/ AND NOW, THANKS TO YOU, I AM NO LONGER UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE EYE OF HORUS/ NOW TO



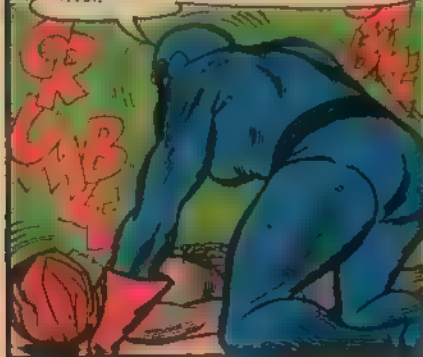
AS THE BLASTS FROM THE POWERFUL ORB SHAKE THE EARTH...

OOOHHHH...!

HASHIM/

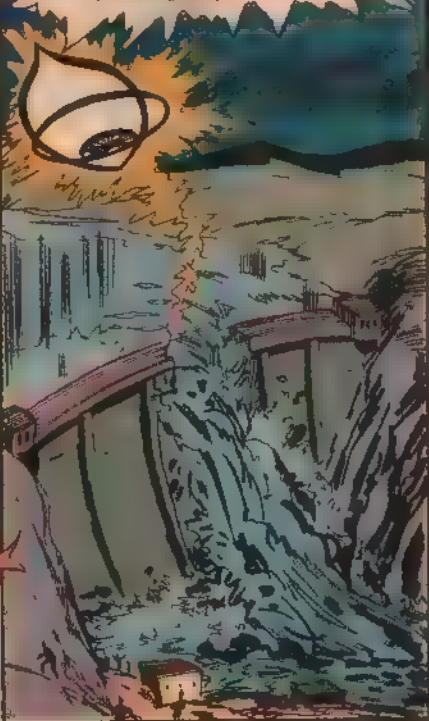


H-HE IS STILL ALIVE/ I MUST TRY TO DEFEAT THE EYE OF HORUS QUICKLY...THEN RETURN AND TRY TO SAVE HIM/



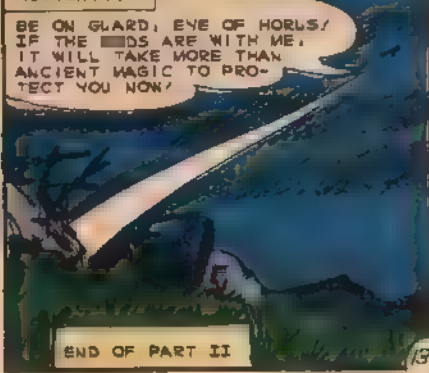
EVEN AS THE CRUSADER OF JUSTICE SPOKE, HIS IMMORTAL FOE WAS FULFILLING HIS DEADLY PROMISE/

FIRST THIS COUNTRY...THEN THE WORLD...SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF THE EYE OF HORUS, AWAKE AFTER 6,000 YEARS/



A SECOND LATER, THE WIELDER OF PHARAONIC POWERS LEAPED INTO ACTION...

BE ON GUARD, EYE OF HORUS/ IF THE GODS ARE WITH ME, IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ANCIENT MAGIC TO PROTECT YOU NOW/



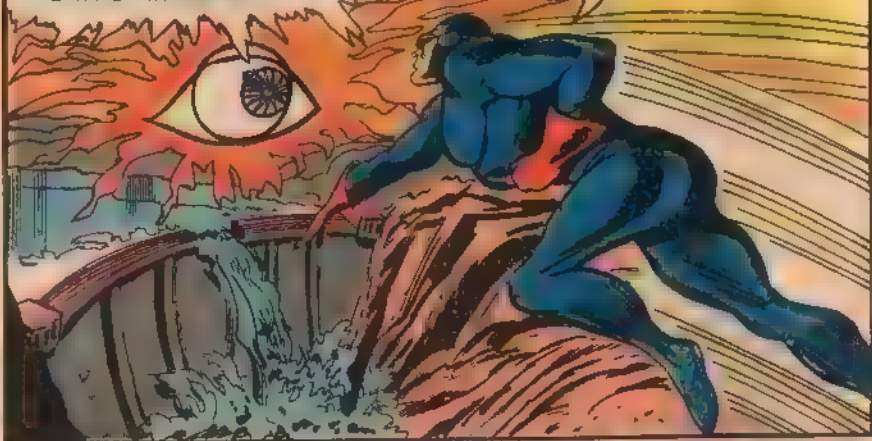
END OF PART II

THROUGH THE HELP OF A BOY...A BOY WHO NOW LAY DYING...BLUE BEETLE HAD TRIUMPHED OVER THE POWERFUL SORCERY OF HIS FOE/ BUT FINAL VICTORY WAS NOT YET HIS...FOR BEFORE HE COULD DEFEAT THE ANCIENT AND POTENT EYE OF HORUS, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BLUE-CLAD CHAMPION OF RIGHT TO FACE THE MACABRE...

PART 3 MENACE OF THE MIND - WORLD

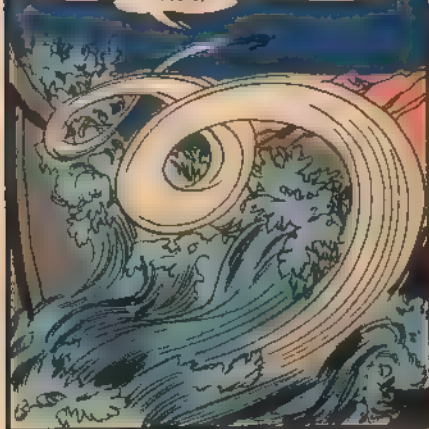
BY THE SEVEN HALLS OF AMENTET/
THE BEARER OF THE SACRED SCARAB
HAS BROKEN MY SPELL/ BUT EVEN HE
CANNOT STOP THE MASSIVE FLOOD
I HAVE UNLOOSED/

DON'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT,
MY PURPLE-PUPILED FRIEND/



WITH A SPEED APPROACHING THAT OF
LIGHT, BLUE BEETLE BEGAN TO WHIRL
ABOUT, LIKE A HUMAN TORNADO...

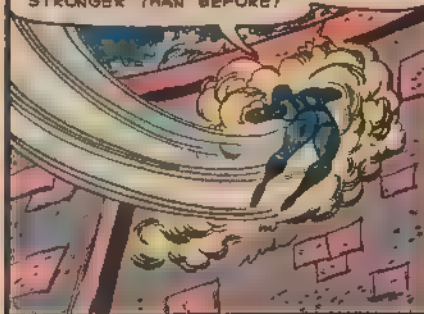
ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE THOUSANDS
OF LIVES IN THE CITY BELOW/ I
MUST SPIN ABOUT SO FAST THAT THE
WATER FOLLOWS ME INTO THE
AIR/



...AND NOW, WHILE THE TONS OF
WATER FORM A MOMENTARY COLUMN
MANY FEET INTO THE SKY, I MUST
LEAP DOWNWARD WITH A SPEED EVEN
I HAVE NEVER ATTAINED BEFORE



...AND PUT THE BROKEN FRAGMENTS OF THE DAM BACK INTO THEIR ORIGINAL PLACES BEFORE THE WATER FALLS TO EARTH/ MY SUPER-STRENGTH WILL FUSE THE FRAGMENTS TOGETHER SO THAT THEY'LL BE EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE/



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT/ THE EYE SPEAKS AS IF WE HAD FOUGHT EACH OTHER BEFORE YESTERDAY...YET I KNOW WE HAVEN'T/ ONLY ONE PERSON CAN POSSIBLY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS PARADOX...THE GREAT AND GOOD PHAROAH WHO GAVE ME THE SACRED SCARAB/



...AND YOUR INTUITION WAS CORRECT/ IT WAS I...THE FIRST BEARER OF THE BLUE SCARAB, MANY LONG CENTURIES AGO...WHO FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE RAMPAGING EYE OF HORUS AND DEFEATED IT WITH MY WHITE MAGIC/ YOU CAN DO THE SAME IN YOUR OWN TIME...



ABOVE, THE MALEVOLENT FORM OF THE EYE OF HORUS AGAIN FADED FROM VIEW...

YET A THIRD TIME THIS BEARER OF THE SCARAB HAS THWARTED MY WILL WITH THE PUNY HUMANS/ I SHALL CONCENTRATE MY POWERS... AND MAKE OUR FOURTH MEETING... OUR LAST/



AS HE UTTERED THESE WORDS, THE BLUE BEETLE...EVEN AS HE STOOD ON NEAR EASTERN SOIL IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY...SEEMED TO FLOAT BACKWARD IN THE MISTS OF TIME...

GREAT PHAROAH/ EARTH.. AND I MYSELF..ARE ONCE AGAIN IN DIRE NEED OF YOUR STORE OF ANCIENT WISDOM/

YES, I KNOW, DAN GARRETT...



...BUT YOU MUST DISCOVER THE ANSWER FOR YOURSELF/ AND WHEN YOU DO, THE SOLUTION WILL BE WITHIN YOURSELF/ THAT IS ALL THAT I CAN TELL YOU...

GREAT PHAROAH... WAIT/ I MUST KNOW MORE/



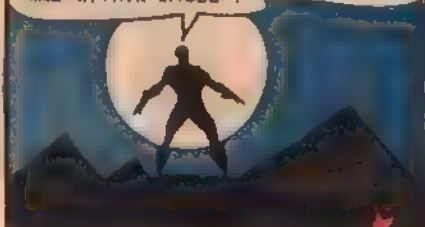
BUT THE AUDIENCE WAS OVER...AND,
THE NEXT INSTANT, BLUE BEETLE
WAS ALONE ONCE MORE...

I- I'VE FAILED! I HAVE NO IDEA OF
HOW TO DEFEAT THE EYE OF HORUS,
AND IT WOULD HAVE DEFEATED ME IF
NOT FOR POOR HASHIM! I'M...NOT
WORTHY OF THE NAME OF BLUE
BEETLE!



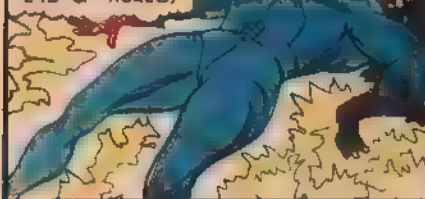
WITH INCALCULABLE SPEED, THE
MIND OF DAN GARRETT, WORLD-RE-
OWNED ARCHEOLOGIST, CAME INTO
PLAY...

AS WITH ALL ANCIENT
RELIGIONS, THE GODS OF EGYPT DID
NOT ALLOW THEIR REAL NAMES TO BE
KNOWN TO MORTALS...FOR ANYONE
KNOWING THE TRUE NAME OF A GOD
HAS POWER OVER HIM...AND THE
GREAT PHARAOH SAID THE SOLUTION
WAS WITHIN MYSELF!



THEN THE BLUE BEETLE UTILIZED
YET ANOTHER OF THE UNIQUE ABIL-
ITIES LOANED TO HIM BY THE AN-
CIENT RULER...THE POWER OF FAN-
TASTIC CONCENTRATION...

AMENET...THE LAND OF THE GODS
AND THE LAND OF THE DEAD...MUST
LIE...WITHIN THE MIND OF MAN HIM-
SELF! IT IS THERE, AT THE CENTER
OF MY OWN MIND, THAT I WILL OB-
TAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUE
NAME OF THE
EYE OF HORUS!



BUT...WAIT! NAME? THAT'S THE
ANSWER THE GREAT PHARAOH MEANT!
THE NAME OF THE EYE OF HORUS IS
THE SOLUTION!



BUT OTHER THINGS BESIDES KNOWLEDGE
LURKED INSIDE THE MIND OF THIS
CHILD OF THE ANCIENT GODS! THERE
WERE UNBELIEVABLE TERRORS AS WELL!

BY THE SACRED HERBS! THIS MUST BE
THE GREAT BLUE SERPENT APEP OF
EGYPTIAN LEGEND...THE CREATURE
WHICH BATTLES THE SUN-GOD RA EACH
NIGHT, AND WHICH RA MUST DEFEAT IN
ORDER TO RISE IN THE MORNING!



CONTINUED OVER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

**BOYS Here's a Swell Way to
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in your spare time
and **WIN DANDY PRIZES Too!**



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older

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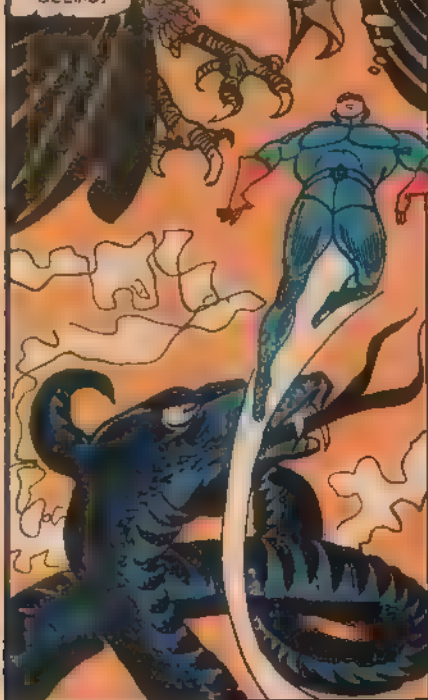
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LEAPING UPWARD, BLUE BEETLE DISCOVERED YET A SECOND MENACE IN THIS DREAM-WORLD OF THE MIND...

OH, OH! STILL ANOTHER MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURE...THE BENNU BIRD/ THE EGYPTIAN VERSION OF THE FAMOUS PHOENIX/ CAN'T GO UP OR DOWN, IT SEEMS!



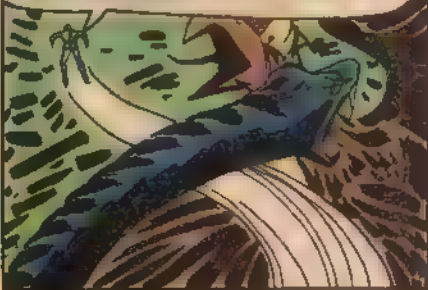
AS BLUE BEETLE SOARS BACK TO EARTH THE APEP-SNAKE COILS IN PREPARATION OF A MIGHTY STRIKE...

HMM...IF THIS WEREN'T SUCH A DESPERATE SITUATION, I'D BE TEMPTED TO OBSERVE THAT I'M CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DEVIL-BIRD AND THE DEEP BLUE SERPENT...BUT I WON'T!



A LIGHTNING-FAST MANEUVER BY THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE, AND...

MADE IT! LOOKS AS IF THAT'S ONE EARLY BIRD THAT GOT THE WORM... AND VICE VERSA! AND I'M GETTING NEARER THE MIND-CENTER I'M SEARCHING FOR...I CAN FEEL IT!



THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, MIGHTY JAWS CLAMPED DOWN...

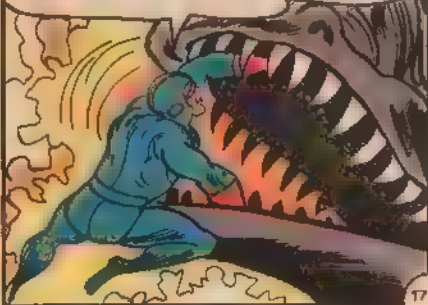
UHHH...JUST WHEN MY JOURNEY WAS ALMOST OVER/ IT'S AMENIT, THE DEVOURER...THE MONSTER WHO DESTROYS THE SOULS OF THE UNWORTHY DEAD!

RRORRR!



FOR HIMSELF...AND FOR THE WORLD... BLUE BEETLE FOUGHT BACK!

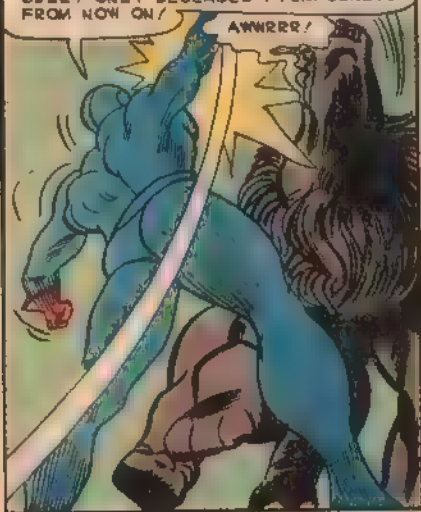
UHH...I DON'T LIKE BEING CALLED PART OF THE UNWORTHY DEAD...ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE...I HOPE!



THEN, WITH ONE IRRÉSISTIBLE SURGE OF STRENGTH...

THERE! AS A FAMOUS MISSOURIAN ONCE SAID...ALL REPORTS OF MY DEATH HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED! THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU TO BULLY ONLY DECEASED PICKPOCKETS FROM NOW ON!

AWWRRR!



ONCE MORE BLUE BEETLE CONTINUED HIS QUEST...

I CAN SENSE THE CENTER OF THE MIND...THE SOURCE OF ALL TRUE KNOWLEDGE...GETTING CLOSER! I... THERE IT IS!



MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT MY "INTUITION" CONCERNING THE SOURCE OF THE TRUE NAME OF THE EYE OF HORUS IS CORRECT! IF NOT, THE WHOLE EARTH WILL BE ENSLAVED BY IT!



AS HE ENTERED THE REALM OF INNER KNOWLEDGE, BLUE BEETLE FOUND EVEN HIS OWN GREAT POWERS SERVED HIM FOR NAUGHT! HE WAS TOSSED ABOUT LIKE A STRAW IN A VIOLENT WIND...

BY THE GREAT PHAROAH HIMSELF! HELPLESS...IN THIS TURBULENCE! BUT...I...I KNOW WHAT I SOUGHT TO KNOW! MUST NOW...RETURN TO THE WORLD OF CONSCIOUSNESS!



THE NEXT INSTANT...OR WAS IT THE SAME INSTANT? BLUE BEETLE FOUND HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN ON THE DESERT SANDS...

I'M BACK WHERE I WAS BEFORE/ AND NOW I KNOW WHY PROFESSOR PHILIPPS COULDN'T CONTROL THE EYE OF HORUS BEFORE/ ITS TRUE NAME IS COMPOSED OF NOTHING BUT VOWEL SOUNDS...AND THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD NO VOWELS IN THEIR WRITTEN LANGUAGE/ NOW TO SUMMON THE EYE TO ME...



THEN, ABRUPTLY, THE CREATURE APPEARED, READY FOR BATTLE...

IMPUDENT HUMAN...YOU DARE TO CALL ON THE EYE OF HORUS/ FOR THAT YOU DIE AT ONCE!

YOUR WORDS ARE FUTILE NOW, EVIL ONE/ FOR I, UN-LIKE PROFESSOR PHILIPPS, AM IN POSSESSION OF YOUR TRUE NAME...AND THEREFORE HAVE ULTIMATE POWER OVER YOU/ VANISH, O CURSED OF SPIRITS AND MORTALS ALIKE...

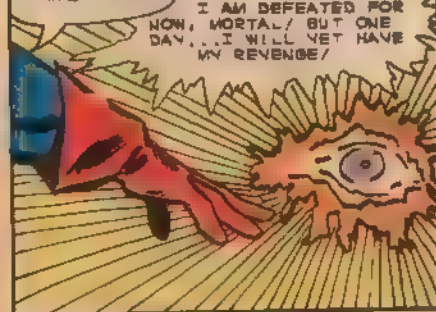


AND, RAISING HIS HANDS TO HIS LIPS, BLUE BEETLE UTTERED A SERIES OF STRANGE, VOWEL-COMPOSED SYLLABLES UNINTELLIGIBLE TO ONE NOT BIFTED WITH THE POWERS OF THE ANCIENT GODS THEMSELVES...



SLEEP ONCE MORE, IN THE NETHER WORLD, DISTURBING NOT THE GODS OF AVENTET NOR THE CHILDREN OF MEN/ AH, THE SPELL IS WORKING/ THE EYE OF HORUS IS DISAPPEARING, VANQUISHED!

I AM DEFEATED FOR NOW, MORTAL/ BUT ONE DAY...I WILL YET HAVE MY REVENGE!



YES, THE EYE OF HORUS WAS BANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH... BUT FOR BLUE BEETLE, ONE URGENT TASK STILL REMAINED...

WITH THE VANISHING OF THE EYE, ITS EVIL SPELL WILL DISPERSE... AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY WILL HAVE REGAINED TOTALLY HUMAN FORM/ BUT I MUST HURRY IF I'M TO SAVE THE INJURED HASHIM!



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE NEARBY CITY...

BLUE BEETLE/ THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE
...HASHIM'S BEEN HURT, SOMEHOW...I DON'T REMEMBER.../

NO, OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T/ YOU WERE ENCHANTED BY THE EYE OF HORUS/ BUT I BELIEVE I CAN SAVE HASHIM/

WITH THESE WORDS, THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE REMOVED THE SACRED SCARAB FROM HIS BELT, AND...

...WITH THIS...THE SACRED BEETLE GIVEN TO ME BY THE GREAT PHARAOH/ THE ANCIENTS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE SCARAB HELD THE POWER OF LIFE...AND NOW I'LL USE IT TO TRANSFORM SOME OF MY OWN ESSENCE INTO HASHIM SO THAT HE MAY LIVE/

OHMM...

AND SO, SAVED FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH BY THE WISDOM OF THE ANCIENTS, HASHIM OPENED HIS EYES ONCE MORE AND BEHELD...

UHHN... BLUE BEETLE/

HASHIM/ HE'S GOING TO RECOVER/

...WITH THE WORLD FOREVER IN HIS DEBT/

SOME TIME LATER, AS BLUE BEETLE PREPARED TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES...

..AND DON'T WORRY, BLUE BEETLE...HASHIM WILL TELL NO ONE THAT YOU ARE DR. DAN...I SWEAR IT/

I KNOW YOU WON'T, HASHIM/ BUT NOW I MUST GO...

OH, DAN... MUST YOU? COULDN'T YOU...?

I...I CAN'T STAY LURI/ GOOD-BYE... AND GOOD-BYE, HASHIM/

MUST GO WHILE I STILL CAN/

GOOD-BYE, BLUE BEETLE/

OH, DAN... DAN/ HAVE I FOUND YOU... ONLY TO LOSE YOU AGAIN?

SOME DAYS LATER, THE MIDNIGHT HOUR FINDS DR. DAN GARRETT PONDERING THE SAME VEXING QUESTION...

LURI.../ WHY MUST IT BE THAT ONLY SOME DIRE MENACE CAN BRING THE TWO OF US TOGETHER? IS THE SACRED SCARAB WHICH UNITES US...YET KEEPS US APART...A BLESSING...OR A CURSE?

ONLY TIME WILL TELL, DR. GARRETT...
ONLY TIME WILL TELL/ END

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THE **Gladiator's** War

THIS WAS SPARTACUS...SLAVE AND GLADIATOR...RISKING LIFE AND LIMB TIME AFTER TIME FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE RULERS IN ROME!



A-5217

WITH ABOUT 70 FOLLOWERS, THE COURAGEOUS GLADIATOR ESCAPED THE COMPOUND...

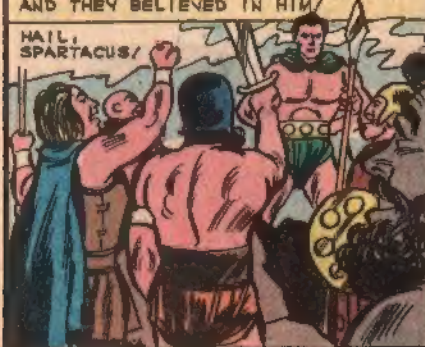


HIS DESTINATION WAS THE FIERY CRATER OF MOUNT VESUVIUS...

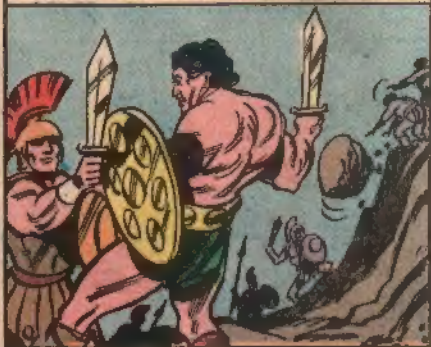


INSIDE THE CRATER WHERE THOUSANDS OF RUNAWAY SLAVES FLOCKED TO FOLLOW SPARTACUS, HE SPOKE TO THEM OF FREEDOM... OF A BETTER LIFE... AND THEY BELIEVED IN HIM!

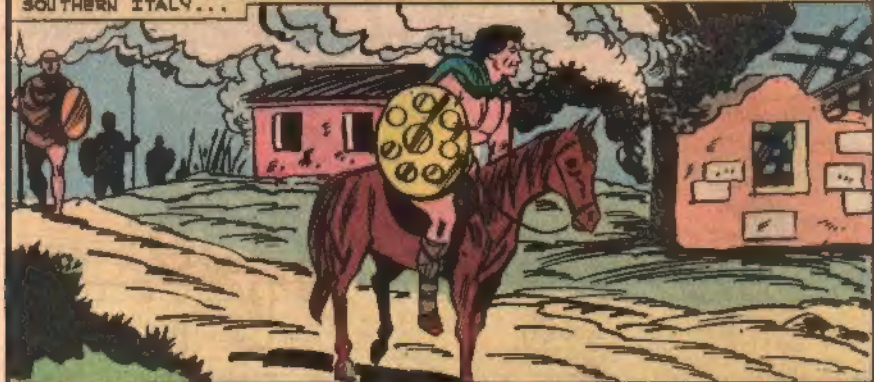
HAIL, SPARTACUS!



SPARTACUS LED THE RUNAWAYS IN A BATTLE AGAINST 3000 ROMAN SOLDIERS COMMANDED BY GAIUS CLAUDIUS PULCHER AND DEFEATED THE ROMANS...



MORE AND MORE ENEMIES OF ROME FLOCKED TO HIS BANNERS... HE OVERRAN SOUTHERN ITALY...



AT ONE POINT, 90,000 MEN FOLLOWED THE REBELLIOUS SLAVE!



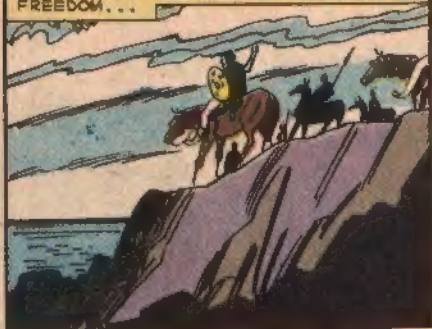
MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS CAME ALONG IN 71 B.C. AND MANEUVERED THE REBELS INTO A PENINSULA CALLED REGGIO CALABRIA...



THE VAST LEGIONS OF IMPERIAL ROME
 DEPRESSED IN ON THE ILL-FED RABBLE
 OF SPARTACUS! THE END OF THE
 DREAM WAS NEAR...



CRASSUS WAS NEAR... SPARTACUS DES-
 PERATELY LED HIS FOLLOWERS TOWARD
 A CITY TODAY CALLED BRINDISI FROM
 WHENCE HE HOPED TO LEAD HIS LES-
 ION ACROSS THE ADRIATIC SEA TO
 FREEDOM...



BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE! THE WILY ROMAN LEADER CUT OFF THAT PATH...AND
 SPARTACUS WITH HIS BACK TO THE WALL BATTLED TO THE END!



SPARTACUS WAS SLAIN BY HIS FOES
 ...AND HIS HOPES OF GLORY ENDED!



IT FAILED, OR DID IT FAIL? COULD
 ANY ROMAN RULER FORGET THE SAC-
 RIFICES SPARTACUS AND HIS DEFEAT-
 ED FOLLOWERS HAD MADE... GREAT
 PAYMENTS MADE IN THE NAME OF FREE-
 DOM? SPARTACUS WAS NOT FORGOTTEN
 ...AND IN THE CENTURIES YET TO
 COME MAN RECOGNIZED THE RIGHTS OF
 MAN TO LEAD HIS OWN LIFE IN HIS
 OWN WAY! PERHAPS SPARTACUS DID
 NOT FAIL AFTER ALL!



END